The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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If a man makes himself a worm, he must not complain when trodden on.—Kant.

LABOR MUST HAMMER ON INJUNCTION EVIL

Education is the best weapon for organized labor in its opposition to the misuse of the injunction process.

No court can withstand a widespread and popular intelligence. Once the injunction evil is understood by the populace, judges will respond to this development.

The essence of law is sound public opinion. This must not be associated with a feverish public opinion that can be created and stimulated for the moment by phrase-mongers and high-power propaganda methods.

Instead, labor must "dig in" for an educational campaign that is devoid of the spectacular. It must be based on the basic principle of the injunction and its misuse by confounding the labor power of a human being with property and property rights.

This difference must be repeated again and again. We must reiterate. We must awake to the value of repetition.

It is easy to propose remedial legislation and then point to our defeat as proof that "nothing can be done."

Too often we have failed to build our foundation—a sound public opinion. Then we are ignored by the public when we call for the defeat of public officials who reject a just cause.

We are ignored because the public does not understand.

The hostile public official knows this, as do hostile employers and every agency controlled by them.

We must keep in mind the invincible power of a sound public opinion. Law-making bodies, administrators and courts reflect public opinion, be it for weal or woe.

If public opinion is not developed, social wrongs are unchallenged and often legalized by the agents of privilege who have been placed in positions of power.

If the public are intelligent, insistent and alert toward any question, governmental agencies reflect this intellectual and aggressive development.

This is why privilege heaps its scorn on the so-called "agitator." He strikes at their vulnerable point—the public conscience.

He undermines their structure by insistent and continuous appeals to reason and logic that will in time seep into the popular mind.

Every wage worker should be a part of this movement to arouse popular protest and develop a national intelligence on the subject of government by injunction and judicial usurpation.

No power in this broad land can resist the protest of people who understand an issue.

"It is a common experience that a long period of agitation and teaching is required to obtain any legislative relief from established wrong and oppression.

"As speech after speech is made, argument on argument presented, a greater proportion of minds become receptive and these in turn will present our cause to others."

BRITISH TRADE UNION ATTACK MET BY WORKERS' SOLID RANKS

Employer Opposes British Anti-Union Attack

London, England, May 28.—Opposition to the government's anti-union trade union bill has been expressed by Sir Charles Macara, leading British cotton manufacturer and for 21 years president of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation.

"I have never found the organizations of the working people blind to a reasoned policy," said Sir Charles. "It is absurd to try to put back the clock of progress by harrassing trade unions in the ordinary conduct of their own affairs.

"In my judgment the trade union bill carries some of the worst features that it is possible to introduce in industrial control. The government is relying on its big majority to do something for which it has no mandate."

London, England, May 28.—Trade unionists continue a nation-wide protest against the anti-union bill, pending in the House of Commons and urged by the Conservative party, now in control of the government.

Mass meetings are being held throughout the country and workers challenge the Tory leaders to come into these communities and defend a measure that will strip the unions of every right.

At these meetings this "trade union covenant" is pledged:

"We, trade unionists and members of the working class, custodians of the heritage of freedom and right of association and organization won by our forefathers, the pioneers of trade unionism, thousands of whom underwent transportation (deportation) for life, imprisonment, victimization and punishment of all kinds to obtain that freedom and right of association and organization; Here and now solemnly pledge ourselves to safeguard that heritage, no matter what the consequences may be to ourselves, with all our strength of mind and body to the utmost limit of our power."

The government's professed interest in the workers is denied by trade unionists, who point to the defeat of the prevention-of-unemployment bill. The object was to set up a nation fund for the purpose of financing constructive work for unemployed. The bill was defeated by a vote of 177 to 122.

Premier Baldwin is receiving no aid from trade unionists in answer to his invitation that they present "constructive amendments." "You can't expect policemen to accept aid from burglars," the workers reply.

In a speech in the House of Commons, Sidney Webb, labor historian, said that under the anti-union laws of England, coal miners were required to tie themselves to employers for a year. "If we like this bill," he said, "they will be tied for ever."

LAW MAKERS' PHRASES CAN'T BRING PEACE

London, England, May 28.—"Law makers believe harsh phrases can stop strikes and bring industrial peace are living in a fool's paradise," said James H. Thomas, secretary of the National Railway Men's Union, speaking in the House of Commons against the government's anti-trade union bill.

"If you are not only foolish, you are blind to all experience," declared this plain-spoken trade unionist. "You can not get industrial peace by stringing words together. Workers must be given a square deal and you can not do that until you have created the atmosphere. Your bill strikes a blow at those who desire peace in industry."

LABOR'S ANTI-"RED" POLICY UPHELD BY RUSSIAN VISITOR

Washington, May 28.—"The statement by Alexander Kerensky before the A. F. of L. Executive Council sustains organized labor's opposition to recognition of Soviet Russia by the United States until the Communist government disavows its purpose to promote world revolution and destroy the A. F. of L.," said President Green.

Mr. Kerensky was premier of Russia following the 1917 revolution. He has been in this country several weeks.

"Political liberty is unknown and industrial freedom is known in name only," said President Green. "There are more than 50,000 political prisoners incarcerated in Russia or confined to Siberia and other isolated sections.

"Trade unions in Russia are controlled by the government and the government is the Communist Party. Strikes are forbidden under pain of severe punishment. This is the sort of freedom about which Communists in Russia, as well as in our own country, have boasted.

"At the present time our attention is attracted to a paradoxical situation. At the World Economic Conference, now held at Geneva, Russian delegates denounce capitalism and capitalistic countries while they appeal to the representatives of these countries for loans that the Soviet government may develop that country's resources.

"The A. F. of L. is resisting the abuse of the injunction process and opposition of reactionary forces to trade unionism in our country. We certainly could not recognize the crystallization of autocratic power and dictatorship such as is represented by the Communistic organization and the Soviet government."

REVIEW OF SACCO-VANZETTI CASE IS URGED BY A. F. OF L. OFFICIALS

Washington, May 28.—The A. F. of L. Executive Council has appealed to Governor Fuller of Massachusetts to review the Sacco-Vanzetti case. The appeal says, in part:

"The Detroit convention of the A. F. of L. favored a new trial for Sacco and Vanzetti. Since this action the Supreme Court of Massachusetts denied the application for a new trial. There is a feeling in the public mind that Sacco and Vanzetti were not accorded a fair trial.

"There is a widespread belief that they are victims of circumstances and of an inflamed public opinion which existed at the time of their trial. In some quarters it has been stated that they were found guilty because of their activities for labor and because they were representatives of labor.

"Sacco and Vanzetti never were known as representatives of labor nor were they ever active in behalf of organized labor. They advocate a philosophy which is not in accord with trade union philosophy.

"Notwithstanding this fact the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. earnestly desires that every person charged with the commission of a crime shall be given a fair and impartial trial and guilt established beyond a reasonable doubt.

"The Executive Council entertains no opinion as to the guilt or innocence of Sacco and Vanzetti. Enough doubt, however, has been created to cause it to believe that an investigation of the testimony and evidence submitted at the trial, new evidence which has been developed and the methods employed in bringing their conviction should be made by the Governor of Massachusetts as petitioned for by Sacco and Vanzetti and the numerous citizens of standing and influence.

"In the interest of justice the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. appeals to Governor Fuller of Massachusetts to institute a most rigid and thorough investigation of the Sacco-Vanzetti trial and conviction and the evidence offered in connection therewith.

"If such investigation confirms the doubt held by many people regarding the guilt of Sacco and Vanzetti we would respectfully request that Governor Fuller exercise the pardoning power conferred upon him by the laws of Massachusetts."

ITALIAN WORKERS UNDER IRON HEEL

New York, May 28.—Cable dispatches indicate that the nation-wide 10 per cent wage cut enforced on Italian workers by Mussolini is a preliminary.

The shipping industry has secured a 20 per cent reduction, and a 15 per cent reduction is enforced on cotton mill workers. Unrest among agricultural workers is increasing and armed revolts are reported.

Business men give no intimation that their prices will be lowered. Rents have increased in many localities. The situation reveals the purpose of Mussolini's "industrial peace" system, which has smashed the legitimate trade unions, established government-controlled "unions" and compulsory arbitration and outlawed strikes.

Every wage worker must pay dues to a Fascist union, but he is denied a voice or vote in that organization if he does not accept the principles of Fascismo—that the State is supreme.

This autocracy has bound labor to the State. No collective action is permitted save by Mussolini's consent. Free press, speech and assemblage are denied and no resolution can be introduced in the Chamber of Deputies unless approved by the dictator.

Mussolini calls this "Labor's New Charter of Freedom."

HARD-FISTED BUSINESS

Florida business interests oppose a State-operated workmen's compensation fund on the ground that "the State should not go into the insurance business or any other business."

Note how cutely these B. M.'s put injured workers in the same class with pig iron, lumber and cement. Both are considered objects of profit, even though dependents of injured workers are pauperized.

There is no comparison between a private concern selling commodities and the State insisting that profit shall not accrue from the sufferings and injuries of any group of citizens.

REACTION GROWS IN EUROPE

The trade union movement throughout Europe is being attacked by reactionary forces.

The Norwegian Parliament has passed a compulsory arbitration act; Carmona, Portuguese dictator, is attempting to suppress trade unionism, and in the Balkan section Fascist terrorism is taking various forms.

Mussolini has smashed the trade union movement, set up his Fascist "union" system and established compulsory arbitration. The same system applies in Russia, while the Conservative government of England proclaims its purpose to pass the pending anti-trade union bill.

This reactionary wave was started by Russian Communists.

WOMEN WAGE LABOR FIXED IN INDUSTRY

Washington, May 28.—The worn but deep-seated tradition that women are transitory wage earners for a short period before marriage is again refuted by the United States Women's Bureau in its investigation of Delaware wage-working women.

While a majority of the women are young, almost three-tenths are under 20 years of age, about one-half are 20 and under 40 and more than one-fifth are 40 years and over. Most of the women began work at an early age, one-third of them were 16 and four-fifths by the time they were 20 years old.

The investigation reveals that the wage situation is bad. One-half of the 4,000 women surveyed in department stores and laundries received less than $11.05 a week. Higher earnings than these have been found in all but four of the 14 States in which women's wages have been studied by the bureau. In hotels and restaurants the average earnings are $10.15 for white and $10.75 for negro women.

In Delaware, of the families represented by the women interviewed in the industries mentioned, nearly one-third were supported primarily by the earnings of the women living in the group. About one-sixth of the women were living in families in which a group of related women were maintaining the household, and in one-fourth of the families the husband scheduled was herself the principal breadwinner. Of this last group of women it is a fact worth noting that, where the husband, that more than one-half were single, one-sixteenth were married and approximately two-fifths were widowed, separated or divorced.

STREET CAR MEN GAIN

Canton, Ohio, May 28.—Organized street car men renewed their contract with the Stark Electric Company. Rates for beginners are 51 cents an hour. The minimum on one-man cars is 56 cents and the maximum on one-man cars is 61 cents.

SWICK IS ELECTED

Lafayette, Ind., May 28.—Officials of the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators officially announce the referendum election of Fifth Vice President Swick as general secretary-treasurer. He succeeds the late Charles J. Lambert.

TROUBLES IN CHINA CAUSED BY OTHERS

San Francisco, May 28.—"The time has come for western nations to get out ideas of China out of their heads," declares the Seamen's Journal.

"To the candid observer," says this labor publication, "it appears as if the people of China are merely asserting their right to control and administer their domestic affairs without foreign interference.

"Yet, to many statesmen and politicians of the superior white race, the Chinese are trespassing upon 'our' property and threatening 'our' liberties.

"Exploiting capitalists have carried things with a high hand in that country and have enriched themselves by the process. They have made 'loans' to the Chinese and under cover of these dubious transactions have seized their lands, their railroads, their customs revenues and established a system of extraterritoriality that is shiningly disgraceful and unchristian. It has worked for many years, but it will work no longer. The Chinese are busily engaged in dissipating the belief that they take pleasure in being illtreated by interlopers who claim to be a superior people.

"That is the whole trouble in China. It is one that cannot be cured by gunboats, marines and ultimatums. Certainly, the waging of war will not cure it."

SINCLAIR SENTENCED; THREE MONTHS IN JAIL

Washington, May 28.—Harry F. Sinclair, oil operator, under indictment with former Secretary of the Interior Fall for conspiracy to defraud the government, was sentenced to serve three months in jail and to pay a fine of $500 on a charge of contempt of the Senate committee which investigated the naval oil leases.

The sentence was imposed by Justice William Hitz of the District of Columbia Supreme Court. Sinclair was released on bond pending appeal. His case has been before the court for three years.

BONUS PLAN FAILS

Binghamton, N. Y., May 28.—The Endicott-Johnson Corporation, shoe manufacturers, invite employees who are dissatisfied with the bonus system to resign. These workers are informed that the bonus is not permanent.

CULINARY WORKERS GAIN

Casper, Wyo., May 28.—Restaurant and hotel employers have signed a two-year agreement with their culinary workers. Waitresses will be paid $3.50 for an eight-hour day.

RENEW CONTRACT

Portland, Ore., May 28.—Electrical Workers' Union No. 125 has renewed a contract with the local electric power company. Increased wages for apprentices is included.

PUBLIC UTILITY STOCK IS BROKERS' FOOTBALL

New York, May 28.—Ninety per cent of the stock of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company is owned by brokers and bankers, according to testimony before the Transit Commission. One witness said these holdings "are a stock-exchange market football" and stock frequently traveled from one brokerage house to another as its owners obtained loans on it. Changes of ownership of the stock frequently was not registered with the company, it was stated.

This public service corporation is operated on an anti-union basis. It maintains a company "union" and forces employes to sign a "yellow dog" contract. Recently its employes staged an independent strike, but were defeated. They became interested in the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, but the company secured an injunction against officers of the bona fide union from in any way inducing or persuading the employes to "break their contract."

BAKERS REDUCE HOURS

Hazelton, Pa., May 28.—An eight-hour day, wage increase and a three-year contract has been secured by organized bakery workers. The former work day was 10 to 12 hours. Wages are advanced $1 to $3 a week, according to classification of employes.

IS THIS "ECONOMY"?

Helena, Mont., May 28.—An "economy" wave has struck State officials and the mine inspector's department has been put out of business for 60 days.

LEGAL METHODS IGNORED BY INJUNCTION JUDGES

In all things in which workmen are enjoined by the process of an injunction during labor disputes, if these acts are criminal or unlawful there is now ample law and remedy covering them. From the logic of this there is no escape.

No act is a crime unless there is a law designating it and specifying it to be a crime.

No act is unlawful unless there be a law on the statute books designating and specifying it to be unlawful; hence it follows that:

No act is criminal or unlawful unless there is a law prohibiting its commission, and it further follows that:

No injunction never was intended to apply and never should be applied, and in fact never is applied in such cases other than in disputes which arise between workers and their employers.

It is agreed by all, friends and opponents alike, that the injunction process, beneficent in its inception and general practice, never should and legally can not be applied where there is another ample remedy at law.

Again we assert that labor asks no immunity for any member who may be guilty of any criminal or unlawful act.

It insists upon workers being treated as equals before the law with every other citizen; that if any act be committed by any one of our members, rendering him amenable to the law, he shall be prosecuted by the ordinary forms of law and not by the processes of law and that an injunction does not lawfully and properly apply and ought not to be issued in such cases.—A. F. of L. declaration, 1906 Convention.

STRIKERS MAY PICKET ONLY AT CERTAIN TIME

Newark, N. J., May 28.

IT is legal for striking teamsters to picket an anti-union concern from 7 to 9 in the morning and from 4 to 6 in the afternoon, but illegal to picket at any other time, rules Vice Chancellor Buchanan.

Under this system the company can request strikebreakers to make application for employment at other hours.

The State law of 1926 gives unionists the right to picket, but this is ignored by the vice chancellor.

WORK FOR CONSUMPTIVES

Atlantic City, N. J., May 28.—Manual labor, chosen as treatment for a person suffering from tuberculosis, was pronounced beneficial by speakers at the annual convention of the National Consumptive Relief Society.

Physicians in charge of the society's sanitarium in Colorado are so sure of this theory that they will establish an agricultural school in connection with the sanitarium.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Middletown, Ohio, May 28.—The annual convention of the Ohio State Federation of Labor will convene in this city on Monday, July 18.

Porto Ricans Uphold Gov. Towner; Big Tax Dodgers Want Him Ousted

Washington, May 28.—In a memorial signed by representatives of all political parties in the Porto Rican legislature President Coolidge is requested to retain the Hon. Horace H. Towner as Governor of Porto Rico.

This unusual testimonial to Governor Towner is signed by Santiago Iglesias, president of the Free Federation of Workingmen of Porto Rico, who is also minority leader of the Porto Rico Senate. The workers have often opposed Governor Towner, but when it came to a question of having him replaced by an avowed agent of the corporations that are draining the island of its resources, the trade unionists take their stand with the island's best interests. They are not alone in corporations pay their share of taxes.

The memorial says, in part:

"Governor Towner is compelled some times to differ from us, but we do not expect from him compliance with all our wishes. We expect from him power to defeat some of our cherished projects, and he will probably continue to do so. This we expect. But we know his reasons and we respect his judgment.

"Our island is now thrown into a chaos of uncertainty and hesitancy. Invisible forces seem to be pressing for a change in our governship. They wish to gain the ear of your administration, Mr. President. Their success would signify disaster for Porto Rico. It would mean unhappiness where contentment prevailed. It would mean disunity where enthusiasm existed.

"We beseech you to pay no heed to the forces now working to bring about a change in our governship. For at this time, such a step might be understood in Porto Rico as a victory gained by a few individuals and corporations who still think that the Spanish-American War, so costly in lives and treasure, was fought for the sole benefit of those who, if the power were given them, would make of our island a colony of peons and slaves.

"The present situation lends new force to our insistent petition that we be granted the right to elect our own governor, for it is unthinkable that an American community should have to live in constant uncertainty, continually exposed to sudden changes of government in which the will of the people has no say nor interposition, while all other American communities elect their own governors, not because they are mere names, but because they represent public opinion as expressed in political platforms and programs.

"An official declaration on your part, Mr. President, that may reach the anxious ears of our people would be a golden opportune at this time; a declaration of such a nature as to dispel doubts and clarify the situation."

BUTLER SEES PERIL IN DRIFT TO CITIES

New York, May 28.—The desertion from farms to city life will be discussed by agricultural experts in conference, following a preliminary gathering of persons familiar with the problem, it was announced today. It was called by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University.

"The drift of population to city centers and the distaste of the younger generation for farm life and farm work," said Dr. Butler, "are rapidly bringing about conditions which will affect not only the economic basis of modern life, but also social and educational interests and ideals. Since the days of agriculture commerce has displaced as the basic industry. Therefore the land, in the largest sense of the word, is losing significance in ownership and modern human interest in a score of ways.

"A generation ago Henry George saw this and pressed it upon public attention with marked eloquence and vehemence. His proposed solution for the problems growing out of the land is not one which either economist or public opinion have been disposed to accept. The fact remains, however, that some solution for the problems of the land and its relations to human life should and must be found."

MORE DEATHS IN MINES

Welch, W. Va., May 28.—The killing of workers in non-union mines in this State continues. The latest victim is at a mine owned by the Central Pocahontas Coal Company, near here. Seven miners were killed. This explosion follows the Everettsville tragedy, where 95 lives were lost. As in the latter, newspapers discuss every feature of these explosions, but the cause. No call is made for the enforcement of mine laws, and if the organized employes protest against dangerous conditions they are curtly told to seek work elsewhere.

MANY WOMEN WORKERS

Albany, N. Y., May 28.—Of the gainfully employed workers in this State, one-fourth are women. More than 18,000 boys and girls under the age of 21 are in the manufacturing industry, the census bureau says, and only one-half are in manufacturing. Of the manufacturing industries clothing leads in accidents to women with almost one-third of the total.

FIVE-DAY WEEK GROWS

Lafayette, Ind., May 28.—More than 160 locals of the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators have the five-day week. The benefits 40,000 workers, or more than one-third of the brotherhood's membership.

MORE FACTORY OUTPUT WITH LESS EMPLOYES

Washington, May 28.—Greater production with a continuing decrease in the number of employed workers is noted by the United States Federal Reserve Board in its monthly bulletin for May.

"This growth in productivity," the bulletin states, "has been brought about by the continuous and rapid increase in the use of machinery and mechanical power, by the further growth of large-scale production and by the consequent increase in the output of industry per person employed. Comparisons in factory production and employment since the beginning of 1922 indicates that while both output and employment increased during that period, the growth in production has been considerably larger than the growth in the number of workers."

The above statement accords with findings by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, which states in its Monthly Labor Review that:

"A comparison of employment and productivity in manufacturing industries during the period 1919-1925 shows that there has been a marked decrease in the number of wage earners employed in these industries since the war. The proportion of such wage earners to the population as a whole decreased more than 10 per cent during the seven-year period but the output of manufactured commodities per wage earner increased about 34 per cent."

FORCED ARBITRATION ADOPTED IN NORWAY

Washington, May 28.—The Norwegian Parliament has passed a compulsory arbitration law that will remain in force until August 1, 1929.

The employers secured the passage of this act following their 15-weeks' failure to defeat 15,000 workers in the metal, mining, textile and boot and shoe industries who were locked out.

Angered at the workers' solidarity, the employers have extended the lockout to 25,000 other employes and through the compulsory arbitration act will call on the government to aid them in reducing wages.

Aside from the locked-out workers, 26 per cent of Norwegian labor is jammed in reduced circumstances by the trade union representative appointed by the arbitration court.

WAGE WORKERS DISCUSS ISSUES AT STATE MEET

Harrisburg, Pa., May 28.—A conference on "Labor and Industrial Progress" was a feature of the annual convention of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor. The speakers included Congressman John J. Casey, a member of the Plumbers' Union; Thomas J. Kennedy, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers; Peter H. Kiefer, president of the University of Pennsylvania; Geoffrey Brown, New York engineer, and Walter H. Rhoads of the Institute of Economics, Washington, D. C.

The latter outlined a plan for the reconstruction of the coal industry with ownership reduced to bondholding and control vested in a board representing workers and consumers. Secretary Kennedy presented the union's case in the present bituminous strike.

ECONOMISTS REJECT DEPRESSION THEORY

New York, May 28.—The theory that business moves in cycles of depression and prosperity was rejected by Virgil Jordan before 200 economists and statisticians at the annual meeting of the National Industrial Conference Board. Mr. Jordan is chief economist of the board's research staff.

"The business cycle, in the old sense," he said, "is a personification of the ignorance and lack of restraint of business men themselves, and it can be cured only when they cure themselves of that weakness."

Other speakers accepted this view, which they based on the superior form of organization among business men. Objection was registered to the government's interference with "intelligent and self-control of business."

LOW WAGE IN NORTHWEST

St. Paul, Minn., May 28.—Local employment offices advertise for laborers on railroad construction work. Wages are $3.25 cents an hour for an eight-hour day without board.

As board costs $31 a day, this leaves workers, says Editor Mahoney of the Labor Advocate, "$1.80 for tobacco, automobiles, steam yachts and other knickknacks."

PASS COMPENSATION BILL

Springfield, Ill., May 28.—The house passed several amendments to the State workmen's compensation bill by a vote of 109 to 2.

FIVE-DAY WEEK IN DENVER

Denver, May 28.—Carpenters in this city have established the five-day week.

STATE EXECUTIONS OPPOSED BY JUDGES

New York, May 28.—Supreme Court Justices Ford and Scudder oppose capital punishment. The latter recently sentenced to death a man and woman convicted of murdering the woman's husband.

"The institution of capital punishment belongs to the past," said Justice Ford. "The State forbids taking of human life and then itself sets the example."

BROADCASTING STATION MAY BE OWNED BY LABOR

San Francisco, May 28.—The Labor Council and the Building Trades Council have created committees to consider the establishment of a labor broadcasting station.

METAL WORKERS ADVANCE

Oakland, Cal., May 28.—Following the formation of the Sheet Metal Contractors' Association, this city has signed a contract with the Sheet Metal Workers' Union.